8th Grade Science Syllabus
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Room HS 103

 The 8th grade science curriculum provides extensive opportunity to practice and master concepts and processing skills introduced in the 7th grade course. Emphasis is will be placed on the physical sciences in preparation for high school science courses. Standards include safety, measurement, scientific method, structure of matter, the periodic table, reactions, chemistry of living systems, forces, motions, Earth and the solar system, density and buoyancy. At the end of the year, students will take the 8th Grade Science STAAR Test.

**Grades**Students will receive a minimum of two grades per week in a combination of daily grades and major grades. Grades will come from in-class assignments, labs, homework, projects, group work, independent work, notebook checks, quizzes, and tests. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your work. If you do not ask for it, you won’t get it!

**Homework**
Homework will be assigned on an as needed basis, and due dates will be clearly stated. Late work is not accepted for any reason other than a documented, excused absence.

**Quizzes**
Frequent, short quizzes will be given to check for understand. Quizzes will always be announced, and will typically be at the end of a unit. Types of quizzes will vary and can include content questions as well as vocabulary.

**Tests**
Tests will be given at the end of each six weeks as a summative assessment for the units covered. If needed, additional tests will be given. **TEST MAKE UP POLICY: IF YOU ARE ABSENT FOR A TEST, YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE UP THE TEST WITHIN ONE WEEK. IF YOU DO NOT MAKE UP THE TEST IN THAT TIME, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO.**

**Absent Work**
If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any work you missed. Students will have several partners in the class from whom they can get notes. The teacher will keep assignments on hand that the student missed, but the student needs to ask for the work. If homework was assigned, the student will have time to make up homework without penalty.

**Late Work**
Late work is not accepted for any reason. If an assignment is not turned in on time, the student will receive a zero for the assignment. At the end of the six week, the teacher will drop the two lowest daily grades.

**Extra Credit**
Two opportunities per six weeks will be given for extra credit. Extra credit is ONLY available during those times. No additional opportunities will be given for extra credit.

**Notebooks**Students will keep an interactive notebook that will house materials including notes, in class assignments, lab data, written responses and more. These notebooks will also serve as a study guide when preparing for quizzes and tests. The notebook will be taken up periodically to be graded. The notebook is to be well-kept and organized. Points will be deducted for messy, sloppy, and disorganized notebooks. Always turn in your best work!

**Materials**Students will need a composition book or spiral and a pen or pencil. It is recommended that students keep extra materials including: notebook paper, hi-lighters, colored pencils, glue, markers, pens, and pencils. (These “extra” materials are not required, but will benefit the students)

**Discipline**In this class, we will create a social contract that gives students an opportunity to respond and take part in building a positive and safe classroom culture. Our social contract will be a direct representation of Da Vinci’s Core Values (Respect, Responsibility, Quality of Self, and Quality of Work) and Mrs. Magana’s class guidelines (Respect yourself and others, always do your best work with integrity, be positive and open-minded, and follow all DV and BWCSD rules). After reviewing the Core Values and Guidelines, students will have an opportunity to respond to questions regarding how each member of the classroom would like to be treated and how conflict will be handled.

Upon deviation from the Core Values and Guidelines, the teacher will follow a discipline plan that has been implemented district wide.

1st Offense: Verbal warning

2nd Offense: Student fills out a Student Reflection Plan. (Teacher goes over it, a copy is made and sent home for the parent to sign, parents will typically receive a phone call or email from the teacher)

3rd Offense: Student fill out another SRP, a phone call is made to the parent, and a parent/teacher conference is strongly encouraged.

4th Offense: The student is referred to administration.

Minor infractions such as chewing gum, inappropriate use of electronics, uniform violations, and minor disrespect issues will be disciplined with a discipline ticket. Multiple discipline tickets may result in other disciplinary actions being taken.

**Tutoring**Tutoring will be available at least twice per week after school! We will also have Saturday tutoring periodically throughout the year.

**Note to Parents:** I am so excited that your student is in my class this year. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. I know that if we work together, our students will be extremely successful. I will always act in the best interest of your students, and I will keep you as updated as possible. Please sign the syllabus and send this page back with your students. You are welcome to keep a copy of the syllabus for your records. Thank you and here’s to a great year!

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Parent signature Date

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Student signature Date